

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A protective cover for a sporting rifle comprising screws which are used to fix a shell propulsion mechanism to a rifle support, the protective cover comprising:

a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of an area to be covered on the rifle support, the area to be covered including heads of the screws that fix the shell propulsion mechanism to the rifle support; and

a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses.

13. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 12, wherein the main body is configured in size and shape such that at least part of a perimeter portion thereof mates with a recess formed on an exterior surface of the rifle support .

14. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a positioning device configured to position the main body on the rifle support.

15. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 14, wherein the positioning device comprises at least two projections on an interior face of the main body configured to fit into at least two blind orifices on the rifle support.

16. (Previously Presented) cover in accordance with claim 12, wherein the main body is transversally convex towards an exterior thereof and longitudinally elongated.

17. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 12, wherein at least part of the exterior surface of the main body is smooth and can bear graphic printed information on the exterior surface.

18. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 12, wherein the cover comprises a single piece formed by injection molding a plastic material.

19. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 12, wherein the fixing device comprises at least two deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with at least two recesses that receive and fit around the deformable protrusions .

20. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 19, wherein the at least two deformable protrusions comprise four deformable protrusions.

21. (Previously Presented) The protective cover in accordance with claim 19, wherein the deformable protrusions have a mushroom shape.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A sporting rifle comprising the protective cover of claim 12.

24. (Previously Presented) A rifle, comprising:

- a rifle support;
- a shell propulsion mechanism;
- screws that fix the shell propulsion mechanism to the rifle support; and
- a protective cover configured to cover an area on the rifle support including heads of the screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising:
 - a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support; and
 - a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with one or more corresponding recesses.

25. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the main body is configured in size and shape such that at least part of a perimeter portion thereof mates with a recess formed on an exterior surface of the rifle support.

26. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, further comprising a positioning device configured to position the main body on the rifle support.

27. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the main body is transversally convex towards an exterior thereof and longitudinally elongated.

28. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein at least part of the exterior surface of the main body is smooth and can bear graphic printed information on the exterior surface.

29. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the cover comprises a single piece formed by injection molding a plastic material.

30. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the fixing device comprises at least two deformable protrusions configured to push-fit mate with at least two recesses that receive and fit around the deformable protrusions.

31. (Previously Presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 30, wherein the deformable protrusions have a mushroom shape.

32. (Canceled)